

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS TODEP 03

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF CINCUSNAVEUR
USNATO REYKJVAK USLOACLANT USUN FROM LONDON 27 SEPTEMBER
REPEATED

QTE S E C R E T LONDON 11152

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND - BRITISH PROPOSAL ON FISHERIES DISPUTE
USUN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

REF: LONDON 10886

1. FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMED US TODAY (SEPTEMBER 27) THAT
ON SEPTEMBER 25 PRIME MINISTER HEATH SENT PROPOSAL TO
ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER PROPOSING WAY OUT OF CURRENT
IMPASSE ON FISHERIES DISPUTE. MESSAGE BEGAN WITH STATE-
MENT OF HMG'S CONCERN ABOUT DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN UK AND ICELAND AND BRITISH DESIRE TO FIND
ACCOMMODATION.
2. ESSENCE OF BRITISH PROPOSAL IS THAT UK WOULD
WITHDRAW FRIGATES FROM ICELANDIC WATERS BETWEEN 12 AND
50 MILE LIMIT FOR TWO-WEEK PERIOD IN RETURN FOR
ICELANDIC ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HARASSMENT
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OF BRITISH TRAWLERS FISHING WITHIN 12-50 MILE ZONE; IT
WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT TALKS WOULD THEN BE RESUMED IN
EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CATCH LIMITATION. BRITISH
ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS LOWER CATCH LIMIT. UNDER BRITISH

PROPOSAL RESOLUTION OF 50-MILE LIMIT ISSUE WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL 1974 LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

3. FCO HAS COMMENTED TO US THAT THEY ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ICELANDERS WOULD BUY THIS PROPOSAL (THEY CONTINUE TO THINK JOSEFSSON WILL HAVE LAST WORD) BUT BRITISH FEEL THAT THEY MUST MAKE GESTURE NOW TO LOWER THE TEMPERATURE IN THE COD WAR. EVEN IF PROPOSAL DID NOT LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IT COULD, BRITISH REASON, IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN UK AND ICELAND.

4. COMMENT: THIS BRITISH PROPOSAL UNDOUBTEDLY STEMS AT LEAST IN PART FROM BRITISH SENSITIVITY TO ALLIED CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE OF ICELANDIC MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND SPECIFICALLY US CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE OF IDF. AS FCO POINTED OUT, PROPOSAL WAS TIMED TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION BY GOI PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON FOR NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

5. IN DEFERENCE TO FCO'S REQUEST, FOREGOING MUST BE HANDLED AS STRICTLY NOFORN.

ANNENBERG UNQTE
KISSINGER

SECRET

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